

# Graduate Diploma of Public Health (GD\_PUBH)

## 1. About the Graduate Diploma of Public Health

The Graduate Diploma of Public Health will equip health professionals from a broad range of backgrounds to work in the field of public health. Students will gain an understanding of the social, behavioural and cultural determinants of disease and will develop skills in the planning, evaluation, management and promotion of health programs to improve the health of populations. The course includes a strong foundation in the research disciplines of epidemiology and biostatistics which provides students with the analytical and communication skills required of public health practitioners. The GD\_PUBH has a global perspective on public and environmental health, with a particular focus on public health issues in the Asian region. Through case-study analysis, and an international focus on health issues and policies, this course prepares students to be an interdisciplinary, collaborative thinker and problem solver in the public health arena.

### Key program learning outcomes

- Assess the ethical practice of public health, and the principles of access and equity
- Apply intervention strategies to detect, prevent and control diseases among human populations
- Identify & outline the financial, legal and economic aspects of health and health policy
- Demonstrate local and global public health awareness to public health challenges
- Identify and analyse the major social, behavioural and cultural variables and issues affect the health of populations
- Demonstrate knowledge and skills of systematic research in public health practice
- Evaluate innovative health policy and management to promote and optimise the health and welfare of various populations
- Determine and describe environmental risk factors that affect the health and safety of a given community or population
- Demonstrate team building, negotiation and conflict management skills
- Demonstrate collaborative methods for achieving organisational and community goals

### Graduate employment opportunities

Students will be prepared for a career in areas such as health policy, project management, environmental health management, community health and health promotion. Career opportunities within government health departments, in public health teams, in community health and academia. Opportunities can also be found in non-governmental health agencies and international aid agencies

## Course Overview

<b>Course Title</b>	Graduate Diploma of Public Health (GD_PUBH)		
<b>Study Options – Domestic Australian students</b>	<p>Online delivery</p> <p>Full-time and part-time options available.</p>	<b>Study Options – International students</b>	<p>International students on a student visa must not enrol into any more than a third or 33% of online subjects over their course and must study at least one subject that is face to face in each trimester.</p> <p>International students on a student visa are required to study full time, i.e. the student must complete a minimum of 1.0 EFTSL of study per year.</p>
<b>Start Dates</b>	<p>February, June, September</p> <p>For specific dates visit the <a href="#">website</a>.</p>	<b>Course Length</b>	<p>Full-time: 12 months</p> <p>Part-time: 6 months</p>
<b>Payment Options - Domestic Australian students</b>	<p><b>Upfront payment</b> This means tuition fees will be invoiced each semester and payment is required on or before the due date.</p> <p><b>FEE-HELP</b> FEE-HELP is Australian Government’s loan scheme for higher education degree courses. It can assist you in paying for all, or part of, your course fees. Repayments commence via the tax system once your income rises above a minimum threshold. Just like with any other debt, a FEE-HELP debt is a real debt that impacts your credit rating.</p>	<b>Payment Options – International students</b>	<p><b>Upfront payment</b> This means tuition fees will be invoiced each semester and payment is required on or before the due date.</p>
<b>Course study requirements</b>	<p>It is expected that each subject, whether studied online or on-campus, will involve a combined total of 120 hours of structured and self-directed learning, which equates to approximately 10 hours a week for subjects over 12-week trimesters</p>	<b>Assessment</b>	<p>Assessments vary and include: critical analysis and essay writing, literature reviews, needs assessment, project development and evaluation, in-class debates, participation in online discussion forums, short questions, and research projects.</p>
<b>Locations</b>	Dynamic online delivery.	<b>Delivered by</b>	Torrens University Australia

<b>Provider</b>	Torrens University Australia Ltd is registered as a self-accrediting Australian university by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA).	<b>CRICOS Course Code</b>	097406J
<b>Provider obligations</b>	Torrens University is responsible for all aspects of the student experience, including the quality of course delivery, in compliance with the <a href="#">Higher Education Standards 2015</a>	<b>Accrediting body</b>	Torrens University Australia Limited ABN 99 154 937 005, CRICOS Provider Code: 097406J. RTO No. 41343
<b>Course Fees</b>	For details, refer to the <a href="#">website</a> .	<b>Any other fees</b>	For details, refer to the <a href="#">website</a> .

## 2. Essential requirements for admission

The general admission criteria that apply to Torrens University Australia courses can be located by visiting the Torrens University Australia website - <https://www.torrens.edu.au/general-admission-information-for-torrens-university-australia-ltd>.

## 3. Admission Criteria

<b>Title of course of study</b>	Graduate Diploma of Public Health
<b>Academic Entry Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A completed qualification at AQF level 7 (bachelor degree) or above from an Australian University or an equivalent overseas higher education qualification</li> </ul>
<b>Applicants with work and life experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applicants without formal qualifications at AQF7 or above may be considered for entry to the Graduate Diploma of Public Health on the basis of a combination of formal (below AQF7) or non-formal qualifications and seven years of relevant experience in a health professional role. Applications will be assessed on a case by case basis. Successful completion of the Graduate Diploma will allow automatic entry to the Master of Public Health with 100% credit.</li> </ul>
<b>English Language Proficiency</b> (applicable to international students, and in addition to academic or special entry requirements noted above)	<b>International Students</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equivalent IELTS 6.5 (Academic) with no skills band less than 6.0</li> </ul>

## Other admission options

(For applicants who will be selected on a basis other than ATAR)

<b>Special Entry</b>	<p>Applicants in any category whose study, work or life experiences have been impacted by disability, illness or family disruption will be given special consideration for admission.</p> <p>Each application will be considered on its merit, based on the evidence supplied by the applicant attesting to the circumstances of the applicant.</p> <p>Applicants for special entry may need to complete written or numerical tasks to assist with assessing eligibility for admission.</p>
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## 4. How to apply

Via direct application to the institution

- <https://apply.torrens.edu.au/>

## 5. Advanced standing/academic credit/recognition of prior learning (RPL)

You may be entitled to credit for prior learning, whether formal or informal. Formal learning can include previous study in higher education, vocational education, or adult and community education. Informal learning can include on the job learning or various kinds of work and life experience. Credit can reduce the amount of study needed to complete a degree.

Applicants admitted based on prior higher education study may be eligible for Advanced Standing in the form of credit and/or recognition of prior learning (RPL) under the Torrens University Australia [Credit Policy - \(https://www.torrens.edu.au/policies-and-forms\)](https://www.torrens.edu.au/policies-and-forms).

- Students with completed subjects may be eligible for specified credit and/or elective exemptions
- Students who have completed a qualification at AQF level 5 (diploma) or above may be eligible for block credit (where a block credit agreement exists)
- Students with a mix of formal study and informal and/or non-formal learning may be eligible for recognition of prior learning in addition to any credit approved.

Credit will not be applied automatically. Applicants must apply for credit and/or RPL as early as possible prior to each study period, with applications not accepted after week 2.

For further information about credit and recognition of prior learning please see <http://www.torrens.edu.au/apply-online/course-credits>

## 6. Where to get further information

- Torrens University Australia (TUA) Website
  - <https://www.torrens.edu.au/>
- Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT) Website
  - <https://www.qilt.edu.au/>

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Information provided in this document is current at the time of publishing (March 2021)

## 7. Additional Information

### Course Structure

<b>Title of the course of study:</b>		<b>Graduate Diploma of Public Health</b>			
<b>Structure of the course of study:</b>		<p>The Graduate Diploma in Public Health comprises eight subjects for a total of 80 credit points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Core subjects: 5 subjects</li> <li>• Specialisations: 3</li> <li>• Electives: Nil</li> </ul> <p>The course can be completed with full time study in 12 months (3 trimesters) or over 2 years in part time study mode.</p>			
<b>Subject Code</b>	<b>Subject Title</b>	<b>Core or elective (in this course)</b>	<b>Pre-requisite or Co-requisite</b>	<b>Credit Points</b>	
<b>Level: 400</b>					
1	PUBH6000	Social, Behavioural and Cultural Factors in Public Health	Core	Nil	10
2	PUBH6003	Health Systems and Economics	Core	Nil	10
3	PUBH6002	Global and Environmental Health Issues	Core	Nil	10
<b>Level: 500</b>					
4	PUBH6005	Epidemiology	Core	Nil	10
5	PUBH6206	Health Promotion and Community Health	Core	Pre-requisite PUBH6000	10
6	Specialisation	<i>Choose 1 specialisation subject from the table below</i>	Specialisation		10
7	Specialisation	<i>Choose 1 specialisation subject from the table below</i>	Specialisation		10
8	Specialisation	<i>Choose 1 specialisation subject from the table below</i>	Specialisation		10
<b>Total Credit Points/EFTSL</b>					<b>80</b>
<b>Course Rules:</b>		To graduate with this qualification, a student must satisfactorily complete 80 credit points. The course can be completed with full time study in 12 months (3 trimesters) or over 2 years in part time study mode			

**Specialisation subjects. Select 3 in total from the list below.**

<b>Level: 400</b>					
1	DHI401	Digital Health and Informatics	Specialisation	Pre-requisite PUBH6000	10
<b>Level: 500</b>					
2	STAT6000	Biostatistics	Specialisation	Co-requisite PUBH6005	10
3	DTH501	Design Thinking	Specialisation	Nil	10
<b>Level: 600</b>					
4	PUBH6001	Health Policy and Advocacy	Specialisation	Pre-requisite PUBH6000 PUBH6003	10
5	PUBH6007	Program Design Implementation and Evaluation	Specialisation	Pre-requisite PUBH6206	10

The course structure can be viewed or downloaded at the Student Hub Courses webpage.

<https://studenthub.torrens.edu.au/Hub>

## Course Rules

To graduate with this qualification, a student must satisfactorily complete a total of 80 credit points. This will consist of 5 core subjects, each with a value of 10 credit points plus 3 specialisation subjects of 10 credit points.

## Subjects

<b>Subject Descriptions</b>
<p><b>PUBH6000 Social, Behavioural and Cultural Factors in Public Health – Core</b></p> <p>Begin your journey into the public health industry with an introduction to the principles of public health and fundamentals of public health practice. You will consider the way major social determinants of health affect a population's health outcomes, while examining the role of public health stakeholders in addressing health inequality and inequity.</p> <p>Learn about the theoretical and conceptual health intervention frameworks and apply these to different populations, including Indigenous and disadvantaged populations. The integration of digital health into public health practice will also be covered.</p>
<p><b>PUBH6002 Global and Environmental Health Issues - Core</b></p> <p>Continue to build industry-relevant skills by examining the impact environmental factors have on the health and safety of local and global communities. Topics include the elements that comprise an environment; the causal links between chemical, physical and biological hazards and their impact on health; and the factors that influence environmentally compromised health outcomes. You will explore current solutions and develop new ways to address environmental threats, such as waste management, water pollution, air pollution and global warming. The influence of globalisation and foreign relations on the social, economic and political determinants of health will also be discussed. Lastly, there will be a focus on environmental disaster</p>

prevention, management and recovery, and the health impacts of climate change that you, as public health practitioners of the future, will have to take into consideration

### **PUBH6003 Health Systems and Economics - Core**

Explore fundamental topics relating to health systems and health economics as you delve further into the public health industry. Learn about various theoretical and conceptual frameworks of health systems, as well as financial and resourcing requirements – both of which are vital for the justification of planning and delivery of effective public health programs. You will be introduced to different strategies to facilitate successful navigation within health care systems in Australia and other countries around the world. Important issues, including the development of policies, the role of the government, public health funding and expenditure, and public health programs and services, will be closely examined to provide you with an overall picture of how health systems are organised on a local, national and global scale.

### **PUBH6005 Epidemiology - Core**

Gain significant insight into the public health industry by understanding the role of epidemiology in prevention and screening, and disease surveillance response. The key concepts of incidence, prevalence and causation in relation to this will be explored. You will learn how to interpret key sources of data and use basic epidemiological measures to draw appropriate inferences. Develop skills to help you identify the strengths, limitations and appropriate uses of various research designs and methodologies in health research. Then extend these skills by critiquing different study designs with respect to research question/hypothesis. Finally, bring together the knowledge and skills you have acquired by elaborating on the role and potential application of epidemiology in public health research, policy and advocacy.

### **PUBH6206 Health Promotion and Community Health – Core**

Building upon your knowledge of public health principles, the next focus will be on health promotion principles and the theories and concepts of community health. You will now learn how to apply health promotion principles, theoretical frameworks and strategies into health promotion intervention for diverse communities. A practical assessment of the health status of various communities will illustrate the value of health promotion interventions that integrates community capacity building and community empowerment. The concept of health emergency preparedness and response will also be explored in relation to health emergency planning in crisis situations. To conclude your journey into the public health industry, you will have opportunities to connect with the industry via workshops, case studies and detailed lectures.

### **STAT6200 Biostatistics – Specialisation**

Analysing data is one of the central activities in the public health industry. Learn how to investigate basic statistics and concepts used in public health research and practice to interpret results in journals and government reports. A practice-based approach to statistical analysis – using specialised software – will enable you to apply basic analyses to public health data.

### **PUBH6001 Health Policy and Advocacy – Specialisation**

Policymaking is not a straightforward process, especially in health policy where the ideal approach is to minimise the push and pull of politics and power in favour of positive health outcomes for populations. In this subject, students will discover that the health policy making environment, as well as policy implementation and sustainability of policies, is complex and influenced by many competing factors. Students will explore and apply theories of agenda-setting, which describe the impact various influences have on health issues. These include the historical and contemporary context of a health issue, the political ideologies and values shaping policy, and who is involved in the whole process.



Additionally, students will examine theories and policymaking models that will enable them to analyse the development and implementation of health policy. Through an ethical lens, students will develop the knowledge to evaluate the success of health policy and critique the use of evidence to inform and evaluate policy. They will also compare and critique concepts to inform their perspectives of health policy within the Australian healthcare setting and the global influences on domestic health policy.

Lastly, students will be asked to think about a health issue being experienced by a certain population group and to analyse the role of advocacy in shaping policy around it.

#### **PUBH6007 Program Design, Implementation, and Evaluation – Specialisation**

An opportunity to advance the skills required of the public health professional in planning for the design, development, implementation and evaluation of community health promotion and disease prevention initiatives. Attention will be given to evaluating the importance of needs assessment in a community, or in any healthcare sector. Students will also learn about program theory and logic model in the planning and implementation of programs, and how to write a program and evaluation plan. Implementation of programs, including stakeholder engagement and program management processes, will also be explored. Students will evaluate programs, including the process, impact and outcome evaluation. Students will examine the principles and resources required to make evaluation successful, as well as the reporting and dissemination of evaluation findings.

#### **DTH501 Design Thinking - Specialisation**

Design Thinking is an approach to innovation that involves identifying ‘problems’ or issues in a particular context, considering those who have a stake in these problems/issues and then designing a range of possible solutions that are tested and refined in practice. In this subject, students will explore the concepts and processes of Design Thinking, including the origins of Design Thinking and Integrative Thinking, and outline their use across a specific discipline and context.

Following these general processes, students will then use Design Thinking to identify and justify an issue within their own professional context. Through this Design Thinking process, students will engage in reflection and analysis of their own professional skills, knowledge and judgement, and ultimately arrive at an advanced understanding of their role as both an innovator and leader.

#### **DHI401 Digital Health and Informatics – Specialisation**

Digital health (or e-health) competency is an essential part of employability in the health and well-being sector in the current world, and one that is mandatory for Australian health professionals.

Develop your knowledge in this area by exploring the current and emerging information communication technologies (ICTs) in use within the Australian health sector, including national e-health records, tele-health, tele-medicine, m-health, mobile apps, wearable technologies, internet of things (IoT), AI and others. The strategic use of technologies and methods to protect the privacy and security of citizens (for example, permission blockchain), along with respective legal frameworks (policies and law), will also be examined.

Learn how to identify basic applications of “health informatics” in the public health context, focusing on health surveillance methods in prevalence (for example, disease surveillance, mapping, contact tracing). The relevance of specific data sets and how these are synthesised using ICT tools and techniques will also be considered. Current methods will be evaluated, with an applied focus on how social media and technology tools (for example, GIS) are being used in public health surveillance.

Lastly, you will consider how digital technology applies to your chosen profession (doctor, nurse, paramedic, allied health). You will also reflect on how technology augments public and population health skills and how health care ethics need to be coordinated across different health care professions.



## Locations

The Graduate Diploma of Public Health can be studied fully online or at the below Torrens University Campuses:

- South Australia (Adelaide)
- Queensland (Brisbane)
- Victoria (Melbourne)
- New South Wales (Sydney)

## Campus Facilities and Services

All campuses are designed to provide students with professional spaces in which to learn and work. They have been planned with student study needs in mind with well-equipped accessible learning spaces as well as student breakout areas for group work and spending time with friends.

- ✓ The Customer Service Hub – our friendly and experienced staff can give help and advice about courses, your enrolment and campus life, including all services and activities on campus
- ✓ Counsellors are available for students to consult with on a range of personal issues
- ✓ Student wireless access throughout the Campus
- ✓ Student break-out and relaxed study spaces for group work
- ✓ Student lounge areas – most with microwaves, fridge and kitchenette facilities
- ✓ The Learning Hub, home to the Learning Support Team, encompasses Learning Skills Advisors, Learning Technology Advisors, and Library & Learning Skills Officers. It provides an integrated, holistic support program for students throughout the study lifecycle within a library/collaborative study environment.
- ✓ Support and workshops with highly qualified staff in the areas of Academic skills, Library skills, and technology skills, both on campus and online
- ✓ Physical and digital resources relevant to studies, such as books, journals, multimedia, databases
- ✓ Self-check kiosks for library loans and print and copy facilities

## A positive student experience

Torrens University Australia values the importance of a positive student experience, and therefore has robust processes to resolve student complaints. The Student Complaints Policy, and associated procedures, can be accessed from the [website \(https://www.torrens.edu.au/policies-and-forms\)](https://www.torrens.edu.au/policies-and-forms).

## Paying for your qualification

We offer two payment options for this course:

- **Upfront payment**

If you want to complete your qualification debt-free you can choose to pay as you go. This means tuition fees will be invoiced each semester and payment is required on or before the due date using EFTPOS, credit card or direct transfer.

- **FEE-HELP**

FEE-HELP is Australian Government's loan scheme for higher education degree courses. It can assist you in paying for all, or part of, your course fees. Repayments commence via the tax system once your

income rises above a minimum threshold (\$45, 881 in 2019-20). Just like with any other debt, a FEE-HELP debt is a real debt that impacts your credit rating.

Further information about FEE-HELP, including eligibility, is available at:

- FEE-HELP website:  
<http://studyassist.gov.au/sites/studyassist/help-payingmyfees/fee-help/pages/fee-help->
- FEE-HELP booklets:  
<http://studyassist.gov.au/sites/studyassist/helpfulresources/pages/publications>

### **Austudy and Abstudy**

Students enrolled in this course may be eligible for government assistance, such as [Austudy](#) or [Abstudy](#).